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(c) whether the Government are aware that the places mentioned are big taluk trading centres and that their trade suffers much for want of telegraphic communication; and

(d) whether the Government cannot take early action for opening the telegraphic communication to the two places.

A.—(a) & (b) No mahazars have been received by the Government. They understand however that mahazars have been received by the Postmaster-General and the matter is under correspondence with the Director of Telegraph Engineering, Southern Circle, Madras.

(c) The Government are making the necessary inquiries.

(d) They will take action as soon as the proposals have been received from the Postmaster-General.

Listed posts open to Provincial Civil Executive Officers.

403 Q.—Rao Sahib P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU :—To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member—

(a) to state how many appointments of Collectors and District Magistrates have been listed as open for members of Provincial Civil Executive Service on the recommendations of the Public Service Commission;

(b) to furnish a list of Brahman, non-Brahman, Muhammadan and Indian Christian incumbents of these posts (permanent and acting) that have been directly recruited during the last ten years;

(c) to state the principles on which the officers of the Provincial Service have been selected for these posts; and

(d) if it is a fact that senior grade non-Brahman deputy collectors have been superseded for the selection and junior Brahman deputy collectors appointed.

A.—(a) No posts of Collectors and District Magistrates have been listed for members of the Provincial Civil Executive Service on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission. The Commission's recommendation was for a reduction of such posts (paragraph 22 of annexure X to the report).

(b) The question is not understood. There is no direct recruitment of Collectors from any community.

(c) Promotions to district posts are made on the basis of proved merit and ability.

(d) The officers selected have passed over both Brahmans, non-Brahmans and Europeans.

Rao Sahib P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU :—“ Will the Government be pleased to recruit some non-Brahman deputy collectors ?

(In the absence of the Hon'ble the Home Member) The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ I do not think, Sir, that the Honourable Member is right in his presumption that non-Brahman deputy collectors have not been recruited.”

Purchase by Government of 'Central Hotel' at Ootacamund.

404 Q.—Mr. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTIYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Public Works—

(a) to state the price paid for the purchase of the 'Central Hotel' at Ooty;

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[Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.]

(b) to state whether the management of the above hotel—now 'Willingdon House'—is to be under the Government, or whether it is to be entrusted to any private individual; and

(c) if the management of the hotel is to be granted to any private individual, to state the terms of the grant.

A.--(a) Rs. 90,000.

(b) & (c) The catering scheme is being run by Government.

Mr. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTIYAR:—"Whether the 'Central Hotel' at Ootacamund is meant exclusively for Government officers and if so, whether all officers, Indian and European, will be accommodated therein?"

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"I have been asked by the Hon'ble the Minister for Public Works to reply to this question. It is meant for all officers, Indian and European."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"I should like to know what necessity there was to undertake the running of a hotel by the Government when there is presumably accommodation at Ootacamund."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"The hotel was taken up because accommodation was found almost impossible for some Government officials and the method by which the Government is running the hotel is on a co-operative system."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"I do not understand the meaning of a co-operative system. Are the Government officers contributing to its maintenance?"

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Yes, Sir, those who stay in it are contributing to its maintenance."

II

Discussion on the budget.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, as I was going through the budget, I recollected an old incident. It was this. Some years ago I had the necessity of preparing a budget and as I was preparing it I found that the receipts fell somewhat short of the expenditure. My officer immediately increased the receipts under certain items and put down the increase as due to more favourable seasons, while as a matter of fact it had no reference to the previous year's actual receipts or the receipts of any year at all. I am afraid that some such process has been adopted with regard to this budget also. I find, for example, under the head of Land Revenue, the budget provides for an increase of 35 lakhs, under Excise an increase of 14 lakhs, under Stamps 9 lakhs, under Forest 5 lakhs, under Registration 2 lakhs and so on. Now, Sir, under Land Revenue I don't know how the Government estimate the increase to occur. Are they going to enhance the assessments in any district or districts? If they are going to do so, what becomes of the resolution which was recently passed by this House that the land assessment revision should not take place pending the enactment of a statute. Again, Sir, under Excise in the budget, there is an increase of 14 lakhs. It is a well-known fact that this year there have been no bids in several taluks. I am also told that the Government have issued orders to the various district officers to give some sort of encouragement to bidders and ask them to bid with almost an